



Docket: 71626US3

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of: Shelton et. al.

Serial No.: 10/796,235

Group Art Unit: 1711

Filed: March 9th, 2006

Examiner: Saira Raza

For: LOW MOLECULAR WEIGHT CARBOXYALKYCELLULOSE ESTERS
AND THEIR USE AS LOW VISCOSITY BINDERS AND MODIFIERS IN
COATING COMPOSITIONS

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Concerning the Office Action mailed on March 22nd. 2006 , entry of the following response is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-64 are presently under consideration by the Examiner. In the Office Action, Claims 1-64 were subject to a restriction requirement. Applicants hereby elect with traverse Group I (Claims 1-46) which are drawn to a cellulose ester product. However, the election is made with traverse.

MPEP § 803 states that an application may be properly restricted to one or more claimed inventions only if (1) the inventions are independent or distinct as claimed, and (2) there is a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is not required. Thus, even if appropriate reasons exist for requiring restriction, such a requirement should not be made unless there is an undue burden on the Examiner to examine all the claims in a single application. Here, it would appear that the searches involved for the claims would be coextensive. As such, it is not believed to be a serious burden on the Examiner to examine all the claims.

Accordingly, for at least all of the reasons set forth above, withdrawal of the requirement for restriction is requested.

The Examiner also requires a selection of species. Applicants elect with traverse for the reasons stated above Claims 36-38. After speaking with the Examiner in a teleconference, Applicants explained that Claims 36-38 select particular C3-C4 ester, acetyl, and hydroxyl substitution ranges and are of particular interest to Applicants.

Concerning additives, Applicants elect with traverse leveling, rheology, and flow control agents. Concerning the water-soluble resin, Applicants elect with traverse acrylics.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

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September 22nd, 2006
Date

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Jo Ann Elam

September 22, 2006
Date